

# MEDIA RELEASE

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

Director: Paul A. Quander, Jr.  
Deputy Director: Adrienne Poteat

(202)220-5300  
www.CSOSA.gov



For Immediate Release:  
January 22, 2004

Contact: Leonard Sipes (202-220-5616)  
Robert Murphy (202-220-5343)

## **President Bush Uses State of the Union Speech to Urge Faith-Based and Community Organizations Support for Returning Offenders**

### **Reentry Week Activities in DC Highlight Ongoing Local Faith-Based Efforts to Assist Offenders Returning From Prison**

See [www.csosa.gov](http://www.csosa.gov) (yellow button) for details

### **Faith-Based Gospel Celebration (many in the choir are former offenders) at St. Luke's in DC on Thursday, January 29**

Media note: Coverage can be personalized through interviews with offenders and their mentors, or offenders who are now religious leaders as they preach during the week.

*“As President Bush noted in his State of the Union speech, offenders returning from incarceration face tremendous challenges. Their ultimate success will depend on CSOSA and the faith-based and community organizations working together to provide structure, accountability, guidance and opportunity. Our public safety goals are met when returning offenders become productive citizens,” said Paul A. Quander, Jr., Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency.*

(Washington, DC)—In his State of the Union speech Tuesday evening, President George W. Bush proposed “A plan to harness the resources and experience of faith-based and community organizations in dealing with the challenges of helping returning inmates contribute to society.”

The (federal) Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) and the faith community of Washington, DC enthusiastically embrace the President’s remarks, and announce a series of events designed to highlight three years of successful partnerships and to encourage others to join in providing support to returning offenders. Crime prevention, enhancing services to returning offenders and addressing the needs of offenders’ families are primary themes of the 2004 Reentry Week activities.

Established in 1997, CSOSA provides probation and post-incarceration services to approximately 15,000 criminal offenders in DC. CSOSA provides comprehensive, public safety oriented programming and treatment services combining accountability with meaningful opportunity. Each year, approximately 2,000 offenders return from federal correctional institutions to the District of Columbia.

“Reentry Week” activities are designed to bring attention to the supervision and support needs of offenders, to highlight successful existing efforts, and to solicit new partners in the greater Washington, DC community.

**Anyone interested in contributing time, employment services, or other resources to this effort should contact 202-220-5300.**

**Sunday, January 25, 2004**  
**Church Services Throughout the Metropolitan Area**

Religious leaders (some of whom are ex-offenders) will conduct worship services. Christian services include: The Upper Room Baptist Church (60 Burns Street NE, Washington DC at 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.). The speaker will be Brother Albert Farmer. The Southeast Tabernacle (4101 First Street SE, Washington, DC at 3:30 p.m.). The service will address the Reentry Housing Initiative Program. The speaker will be the Rev. Henry Gaston. Additional participating churches include: the Pilgrim Baptist Church, the New Commandment Baptist Church, Faith Tabernacle, Kelsey Temple Church of God in Christ, and on Friday, January 23, 2004, the Church of Scientology (1701 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC at 5:30 p.m.) The theme of the service will be “Reentry: Helping Those in Need.” The speaker will be the Rev. Sue Taylor.

**Thursday, January 29, 2004**  
**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**A citywide celebration of two successful years of the CSOSA/faith community partnership. Offenders and their faith-based mentors are featured speakers.**  
St. Luke’s Church Center, 4925 East Capitol St. SE, Washington, DC 20019.

**Friday, January 30, 2004**

**1:00 p.m. Muslim worship service** at the Blackburn Center at the Howard University.  
Contact person: Imam Bilal Ali Prather (ex-offender), 202-374-0534.

**6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Muslim Community Offender Reentry Dinner**, Emory Recreation Center, Georgia Ave. and Madison St., Washington, DC, 20011. Contact person: Imam Bilal Ali Prather, 202-374-0534. Open to the public.

###